

"THERE IS AN IMPORTANT  
SENSE IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT  
OPPOSE ADMINISTRATION"

DRAWER 6A SPURIOUS QUOTATIONS

71.2009.085 05007



# Abraham Lincoln Quotations & Sayings

Spurious

“There is an Important  
Sense...Loyal to His  
Government”

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

## LINCOLN AND BLACKSTONE ON PRESS PERSECUTIONS.

### Lincoln on Newspaper Criticism.

To the Editor of The World:

It is interesting at this time to recall Abraham Lincoln's views regarding press criticisms of the Government. Probably few, if any, Presidents ever had greater cause for just complaint than did this great hero of the American people. When previous to the election of 1864 his attention was called to the carping spirit of some of the professed friends of the Government who, distinguishing between the Administration and the Government, condemned the former while pretending to defend the latter, he said: "There is an important sense in which the Government is distinct from the Administration. One is perpetual, the other is temporary and changeable. A man may be loyal to his Government and yet oppose the peculiar principles and methods of the Administration. I should regret to see the day in which the people should cease to express intelligent, honest, generous criticism upon the policy of their rulers."

A. W. A.

Middleburg, N. Y., Feb. 5.

### Barratry.

To the Editor of The World:

Judge Blackstone in the fourth book of his Commentaries, at page 134, says that—

Common barratry is the offense of frequently exciting and stirring up of suits and quarrels between His Majesty's subjects, either at law or otherwise.

The punishment for this offense in a common person is by fine and imprisonment; but if the offender (as is too frequently the case) belongs to the profession of the law, a barrator who is thus able as well as willing to do mischief ought also to be disabled from practising in the future. \* \* \*

Hereunto may also be referred another offense of equal malignity and audaciousness, that of suing another in the name of a fictitious plaintiff—either one not in being at all or one who is ignorant of the suit. This offense, if committed in any of the King's superior courts, is left as a high contempt, to be punished at their discretion.

Sir Edward Coke in his notes upon Littleton, title 368A, has this to say:

A barrator is a common mover and exciter or maintainer of suits, quarrels or pacts, either in courts or elsewhere in the country.

Do these extracts seem to point toward Theodorus Primus, Mei Gratia Columbiæ Imperator? OH, NO.  
New York, Feb. 8.

New York World Feb. 12 1909

NICHOLAS J. CONRAD

1099 PELHAM ROAD

WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Oct 12, 1941

My dear Mr. Warren:—

I wish to express my deep appreciation and thanks for your very kind letter of Oct 8<sup>th</sup> with which you enclosed a photostat copy of the "Lincoln" statement you found in the New York World for February 12<sup>th</sup> 1909. I was also pleased to learn that you thought it sounded very much like Lincoln.

The other quotation, from a speech in the U. S. House of Representatives of which you sent a copy, does as you say carry the same idea, but it is not as direct and effective and particularly because the one in question, according to the letter in the New York World, was originally spoken or written during Lincoln's campaign for re-election after four years of Civil War with all its trials and grief.

If you find the original or any other source of the quotation, I hope you will send it to me.

Thanking you sincerely, I am

Yours very truly,

Nicholas J. Conrad



8

NICHOLAS J. CONRAD

1099 PELHAM ROAD  
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

October 23, 1941

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

The Saturday Evening Post of October 25, 1941, just received, has on the editorial page the Lincoln quotation I wrote to you about. For your convenience I am enclosing the page herewith. You will note that they give the original source as a speech in the House of Representatives January 12, 1848.

This date, of course, is not quite as effective as the date of 1864 given in the letter printed in the New York World of February 12, 1909. The quotation printed in the Post is exactly like the one I sent to you and does not include the last sentence of the quotation as given in the New York World which sentence is of great importance if genuine.

I wonder whether with this clue you would have the quotation checked at the original source as given by the Post? If you find it, please have a photo-stat copy made and sent it to me as soon as convenient. I would very much like to use it at the earliest possible date in a letter accompanying a recent address by Dr. Virgil Jordan, President of the National Industrial Conference Board, which I desire to send to some of the leading members of the Congress.

Trusting you will forgive me for bothering you again, I am

Yours sincerely,

*Nicholas J. Conrad*

jc

CONRAD

THERE is an important sense in which the Government is distinct from the Administration. One is perpetual, the other temporary and changeable. A man may be loyal to his Government and yet oppose the peculiar principles and methods of the Administration.—*From a speech by Abraham Lincoln when he was a member of the House of Representatives, Jan. 12, 1848, criticizing President Polk for having provoked the Mexican War.*

*Sat Ev Post Southern Page 10-25-41*

October 27, 1941

Mr. Nicholas J. Conrad  
1099 Polkman Road  
Winnetka, Illinois

My dear Mr. Conrad:

We have just exhausted every known source for the discovery of the quotation alleged to have been excerpted from an address made by Abraham Lincoln in the House of Representatives on January 12, 1848.

The statement is nowhere to be found as far as we can learn and we have before us original copies of the Congressional records giving reporters version of the speech, also a later issue of the Congressional records carrying the speech copied verbatim and also the reprinted pamphlet of 1848 printed by Gideon in Washington also carrying what is supposed to be a verbatim copy of the speech. Nowhere in these sources do we find the excerpt mentioned in the Saturday Evening Post.

This is not the first instance, however, where the Saturday Evening Post had grievously erred in quoting Lincoln, if they have erred in this instance, which it seems apparently they have.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director



## Did Lincoln Say This?

So many stories and sayings are attributed to Abraham Lincoln without any conclusive evidence of their authenticity that one never can be safe in using them unless the correctness of the attribution is established beyond doubt. For instance, none is better known and with none have Lincoln lovers been more reluctant to part, than his alleged utterance while witnessing a slave auction in New Orleans. With choking voice he is represented to have said: "If I ever get a chance to hit that thing I'll hit it hard." The young man Lincoln did go to New Orleans and he probably witnessed the selling of slaves. But the one authority on whom the story rests is John Hanks, and he only went down the river as far as St. Louis. He was not in New Orleans at the time.

There is the now pretty well exploded story to the effect that in presenting his views on the tariff, Lincoln in his years of relative obscurity made the familiar statement about steel rails: "I do not know much about political economy but I do know that when we purchase a ton of steel rails from Great Britain for \$100 we get the rails and Great Britain gets the money, and when we produce the rails from our own mines and in our own mills we have both the money and the rails." The fact was well established years ago that not Lincoln but Robert G. Ingersoll had fathered that statement and the citation now has almost entirely disappeared from public use.

At the time of the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago 15 years ago, wide circulation was given to the "burning words" with which Lincoln was said to have denounced the Roman Catholic Church. The spurious quotation was utterly foreign to the spirit of Lincoln and nobody has found it in any Lincoln document—and nobody ever will. So with the warning he often is quoted as having made against the peril of huge corporations. Also, an Illinois governor once cited in Boston in all good faith the fabricated affirmation by Lincoln that "God helping" him he "never would sign the death warrant of any living man." Lincoln never said that and as a matter of fact he did sign death warrants.

Just now a new statement is attaining circulation. It was quoted on this page in our Mail Bag the other day: "There is an important sense in which the government is distinct from the Administration. One is perpetual, the other temporary and changeable. A man may be loyal to his government and yet oppose the peculiar principles and methods of the Administration."

All Lincolnians should get busy with the question, whether Lincoln said that. It was found in a New York paper and has been used for political purposes. One correspondent was the first to give it a date, 1848. Lincoln was in Congress that year. Careful reading of the Congressional Globe for the whole of his term, 1847-1849, and of all the collected "works" of Lincoln, fails to locate the statement. It appears to be in no letter and in no speech. We may rightly doubt its authenticity.



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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

6-9-142

Dear Dr. Warren:-

The Dale Putnam - Strun  
 Sue - May list - is before me. I am  
 puzzled and doubtful. Looks  
 suspicious. Would you mind  
 telling me confidentially  
 why you turned it down?

Have you seen the alleged  
 Lincoln quotation as per the  
 final paragraph of the enclosed?  
 Being used by Republican  
 campaigners, I think it a fake;  
 do you?

Glad to hear from you  
 soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
 F. A. Bullard

June 19, 1942

Mr. F.L. Bullard  
Boston Herald  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Bullard:

The reason we did not acquire the Dale Putnam item which you mentioned in your letter of June 9 is because we felt if there was one copy kept so nice and clean and new, apparently, there were probably a great many others kept in the same condition and eventually they would be distributed at a much less figure. While we did question somewhat the genuineness as far as originality is concerned, nevertheless we turned it down more in hopes that we might eventually secure one at a better figure.

With respect to the Lincoln quotation we have had many inquiries about it since it appeared in the Saturday Evening Post on November 25, 1941. The earliest quotation in print that we can find is the New York World for February 12, 1909, but we have never been able to confirm the quotation as an authentic Lincoln saying.

Enclosed you will please find a photostatic copy of the New York World clipping which you may keep for your file.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB  
Enc.

Director



6 THE BOSTON HERALD

MORNING AND SUNDAY

BY THE BOSTON HERALD TRAVELER CORPORATION



Boston Traveler

EVENING

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

9-18-42

Dear Dr. Warren:-

In June you replied to a letter of mine respecting the probability that a certain Lincoln quotation is spurious - viz., that about "government distinct from administration", and the right to criticize the one while being loyal to the other. You mentioned the Saturday Evening Post of Nov. 25, 1941, as the recent original reference, whereas others have named Oct. 25, 1941, as the correct date. I am now looking for a copy of the Post containing same, and few Post files exist. My object in writing is to make sure of the date I should order.

Off and on I have been following several spurious quotations to their lairs, and have uncovered



a few interesting facts about  
this one - of which more later.  
If you have a copy of the right  
set will you send me a  
photostat?

Sincerely yours,

A. Lauriston Bullard.

Saying  
THE BOSTON HERALD

MORNING AND SUNDAY

BY THE BOSTON HERALD TRAVELER CORPORATION



Boston  Traveler

EVENING

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

6-22-'42

Dear Dr. Warren:—

I returned the item & Dale Putnam as he has sent it back somewhere South whence it came. My reactions were all unfavorable — but I wondered who would consider it worth while to fake a thing & sell at a low price.

Thank you for the World photostat, which I had not seen. I have asked everybody who has used that Q. to give its date, place, and authority — no luck. It is, I think, obvious. We have, as you see, practically no evidence.

Sincerely,

F. J. Bullard



September 24, 1942

Mr. F.L. Bullard  
Boston Herald  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Bullard:

Enclosed please find a clipping which was forwarded to our Foundation with a statement that it was published in the issue of October 25, 1941. I do not know how I happened to use November instead of October in writing to you. Enclosed please find photostat of the clipping.

While I doubt seriously if we will find the quotation genuine there is no question but that Lincoln felt that way about it. In other words I would be willing to confirm that Lincoln would have been willing to have said, that it is alleged that a case should not be handled with such a degree of if we were to think Lincoln did not confirm in other talks that it is alleged he said on some other instance.

ENC.  
IVM:BB

Read his speech on the presidential question for July 27, 1848 in the Congressional Records, page 1042, and you will find that he does confirm the viewpoint of the clipping. He says: "To you the President and the country seem to be all one," and then goes on to suggest that he can see the distinction between the president and the country.

RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR THE DISCUSSION

I should like to think in a great many other instances he implied the very same distinction as you will recall that he told one of his Generals that the members of Congress criticized him freely.

NOTHING AS CAN BE SEEN THE SPEECH OF LINCOLN FORMER EXECUTIVE HOUSE ARCHIVE

My own feeling is that at the time the speech was delivered Lincoln in talking with some of the members of Congress may have used an expression very much like what was credited to him and the expression was having come from one of his speeches rather than from conversation. In other words I would say that this was the point of view held by the majority of Whigs in 1848.

THE PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR THE DISCUSSION

As read from the Congressional Records a great many of these lines of speeches by various Congressmen on the presidential question attempted cannot expect to find some parallel to the alleged Lincoln sayings. Here is an interesting quotation from the speech made by Mr. H.W. Hilliard of Alabama on July 24, 1848 three days before Lincoln made his speech.

MR. F.L. BULLARD

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SEPTEMBER 24, 1942



Mr. F.L. Bullard

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September 24, 1942

"There are great principles which are essential to liberty; we cannot exist without them. These the Whigs seek to preserve. The very first of these principles is resistance to executive power. It is a singular fact that the party styling itself Democratic seeks to clothe the President with almost royal attributes; it's the same in all his assumptions of authority, in all his usurpations of power."

This saying coming from an Alabama representative, but it does, open I am sure, voice the sentiment of the Whigs of which Lincoln was a member.

While I think we can refute the authenticity of the quotation I do not think we can refute the attitude of Lincoln toward executive power which was in line with the general opinion of the Whigs.

I should be pleased indeed to learn if you are successful in finding any further authority for the quotation.

LAW:KE  
Enc.

Very truly yours,  
Director

I am sure that the Whigs of which Lincoln was a member...

I do not know how I published the quotation...

Mr. F.L. Bullard:

Director  
Boston  
Mr. F.L. Bullard

September 24, 1942





**"A man may be loyal  
to his government  
and yet oppose the  
peculiar principles  
and methods of the  
administration."**

***—Abraham Lincoln.***



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